UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/96E-K
1 February 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 20 (*b*)

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/54/L.29/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/54/L.66 and Add.1, A/54/L.67 and Add.1, A/54/L.68 and Add.1, A/54/L.69 and Add.1, A/54/L.72/Rev.1 and A/54/L.76 and Add.1)*]

54/96. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

E

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO AND COOPERATION WITH THE ALLIANCE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL AMERICA

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the resolutions in which it emphasizes and acknowledges the importance of international, bilateral and multilateral economic, financial and technical support, cooperation and assistance for peacekeeping and peace-building in Central America following the armed conflicts in the region, in particular its resolutions 49/21 I of 20 December 1994, 50/58 B of 12 December 1995, 50/132 of 20 December 1995 and 52/169 G of 16 December 1997, which provide a frame of reference for international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America,[1] in support of national efforts to make the region a zone of peace, freedom, democracy and development,

[1] See A/49/580–S/1994/1217, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*, document S/1994/1217.

Noting that, as the century draws to a close, the Central American countries have achieved significant progress towards the consolidation of democracy and good governance, the strengthening of civilian Governments, respect for human rights and the rule of law and the promotion of State and economic reforms, sustainable development and regional integration, reflecting the desire of the Central American peoples to live and prosper in a climate of peace and solidarity,

Stressing the importance and effectiveness of the commitments undertaken by the Central American Presidents at various regional presidential summits, in particular those which constitute the global framework for promoting and consolidating peace, democracy and sustainable human development in Central America,

Recognizing that hurricane Mitch, the worst disaster to strike the Central American region in this century, underscored the extreme vulnerability of the poorest sectors of the population, in particular women and children, which were the most severely affected, and the inadequacy of existing local and national institutions to deal with natural disasters,

Noting that the various natural phenomena which have affected the region are one of the factors that have put at risk the biodiversity of Central America,

Taking into consideration that, at the second Consultative Group Meeting for the Reconstruction and Transformation of Central America, co-hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Sweden and held in Stockholm from 25 to 28 May 1999, the Governments of the region, the principal donors and representatives of civil society renewed their commitment to democratic change and sustainable human development as the best means of reducing economic, social and ecological vulnerability to disasters, and looking forward to the next round of Consultative Group Meetings, to be held in Nicaragua and Honduras in February 2000,

Taking into account that the Governments of the region have designated the period 2000–2004 as the Quinquennium for the Reduction of Vulnerability to and the Impact of Natural Disasters in Central America and have adopted a strategic framework for the reduction of vulnerability and disasters in Central America, which contain guidelines for the elaboration, updating, improvement and development of regional plans for the reduction of vulnerability to and the impact of natural disasters, the integrated management and conservation of water resources and the prevention and control of forest fires,

Stressing that the achievement of the national priorities in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, public safety and regional integration fields, which are set out in the programme of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, is essential for reducing the region's vulnerability to natural disasters and for promoting sustainable human development,

Considering the necessity of ensuring the elimination of anti-personnel mines from Central American territory as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration of mine victims in their communities in order to restore normal conditions for the integral development of the region,

Recognizing the valuable and effective contribution made by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and by the various governmental and non-governmental mechanisms, the donor community and the Consultative Group for the Reconstruction and Transformation of Central America and the importance of the political dialogue and cooperation taking place between the European Union and Central America and the joint initiative of the industrialized countries of the Group of Twenty-four and the

Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela) in the progress made towards consolidating peace, democracy and the implementation of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America,

Reaffirming the need to continue focusing attention on the situation in Central America with a view to overcoming the underlying causes of the armed conflicts which have impeded the region's development and avoiding a reversal of the achievements,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the reports of the Secretary-General on international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America[2] and on collaborative efforts to assist Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama and progress made with the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the affected countries,[3] in particular their recommendations and conclusions;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of supporting and strengthening the efforts of the Central American countries to implement the Strategic Framework for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Disasters in Central America, adopted by their Presidents in the Declaration of Guatemala II[4] on 19 October 1999, and the projects and programmes of the Quinquennium for the Reduction of Vulnerability to and the Impact of Natural Disasters in Central America, in accordance with the process of transformation and sustainable development for the region for the next millennium, which contain basic guidelines for the prevention and mitigation of damage, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups and sectors, as identified by gender-based levels of poverty and marginality;

3. *Notes* the efforts and achievements relating to mine clearance in Central America, despite the negative impact of hurricane Mitch, and appeals to the organs of the United Nations system, in particular the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, and the Organization of American States as well as the international community to continue providing the material, technical and financial support needed by the Central American Governments to complete mine-clearance, mine-awareness and victim assistance activities in the region, in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and with the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction[5] that relate to international cooperation and assistance;

4. *Stresses* the need for the international community to maintain its cooperation and assistance, including provision of financial resources, both bilateral and multilateral, with the Central American countries, to support the promotion of sustainable development and the consolidation of peace, freedom and democracy in the region;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress achieved towards the implementation of the subregional cooperation programme in Central America of the United Nations Development Programme focusing on

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[2] A/54/350.

[3] A/54/130–E/1999/72 and Rev.1.

[4] A/54/630, annex.

[5] See CD/1478.

peace and democratic governance, strengthening of the rule of law, economic and social development and sustainable development, which was established in 1996;

6. *Recognizes* the importance for the subregion of the studies being undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme, in collaboration with its national and regional partners and with donors, in particular in the preparation of the forthcoming meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank Consultative Group on the regional aspects of the reconstruction and transformation of Central America, to be hosted by the Government of Spain in Madrid in 2000, which will seek to establish new relations of cooperation in pursuit of the objectives of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the initiative to introduce the new and innovative approach of a Meso-American Biological Corridor, which is being developed with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme's own funds, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and the United States Agency for International Development, as an initiative with an innovative approach that seeks to conserve biodiversity, mitigate the effects of climate change and promote the sustainable development of rural communities, which will facilitate the establishment of a network of protected areas throughout Central America that will help to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters;

8. *Supports* the decision of the Central American Governments to concentrate their efforts on the implementation of updated programmes with strategies to achieve sustainable human development in previously determined priority areas, which help to consolidate peace and resolve social inequalities, extreme poverty and social explosion;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and all States, international financial institutions and regional and subregional organizations to continue providing the support needed to attain the objectives of the programme for the sustainable development of Central America, in particular those which are being pursued within the framework of the Quinquennium for the Reduction of Vulnerability to and the Impact of Natural Disasters in Central America;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-sixth session the question of international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America.

80th plenary meeting
15 December 1999

F

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and reaffirming that humanitarian assistance should be provided in accordance with and with due respect for the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling also agreed conclusions 1999/1 of the Economic and Social Council[6] adopted at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 1999, in particular the relevant paragraphs thereof,

Stressing the importance of an adequate United Nations presence in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Noting the efforts by the United Nations system to assess the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, starting with the Inter-Agency Needs Assessment Mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 16 to 27 May 1999,

Taking note of the report prepared by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, entitled "Electricity and heating in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: winter 1999-2000",[7]

Also taking note of the report entitled "The Kosovo conflict: consequences for the environment and human settlements",[8] prepared by the Joint United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements Balkans task force on environment and human settlements,

Taking further note of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro),[9]

Stressing, in this context, the need to prevent attacks on ethnic minorities which may lead to additional humanitarian needs,

Aware of the humanitarian requirements of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

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[6] A/54/3, chap. VI, para. 5. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1).

[7] See www.reliefweb.int.

[8] UNEP/UNCH/(02)/K6.

[9] A/54/396–S/1999/1000 and A/54/396/Add.1–S/1999/1000/Add.1; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1999*, document S/1999/1000 and ibid., *Supplement for October, November and December 1999*, document S/1999/1000/Add.1.

Bearing in mind that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been affected by the problems caused by refugee flows from neighbouring countries and has a large number of internally displaced persons,

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance, and noting the rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States, international agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the affected population in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

1. *Calls upon* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian assistance to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the affected population in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, especially during winter months, in particular bearing in mind the special situation of women, children and other vulnerable groups;

2. *Urges* the relevant authorities and the international community to support programmes to ensure that the humanitarian needs of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are met and to support durable solutions to their plight, in particular voluntary repatriation and reintegration, and stresses the need to create conditions conducive for their safe return;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian assistance for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-fifth session, under the agenda item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

80th plenary meeting
15 December 1999

G

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BALKANS

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 52/169 H of 16 December 1997 and the conclusions contained therein,[10]

Recalling agreed conclusions 1999/1 of the humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council,[6] in particular the relevant paragraphs thereof,

Stressing the importance of the regional cooperation initiatives and assistance arrangements, such as the Process of Stability and Good-Neighbourliness in South-East Europe (Royaumont Initiative), the South-East European Cooperative Initiative, the South-East European Cooperation Process, the Central European Initiative and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation,

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[10] A/54/534.

Welcoming the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, adopted in Cologne, Germany, on 10 June 1999,

Taking note of issue number 2 of the *Economic Survey of Europe, 1999*,[11] in particular the relevant chapters thereof,

Recalling its resolution 54/62 of 1 December 1999,

1. *Expresses concern* at the special economic problems confronting the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans, in particular their impact on regional trade and economic relations and on navigation along the Danube and on the Adriatic Sea;

2. *Welcomes* the support already provided by the international community, in particular by the European Union and other donors, to the affected States to assist them in coping with their special economic problems during the transition period following the lifting of the sanctions pursuant to Security Council resolution 1074 (1996) of 1 October 1996, as well as in the process of economic adjustment following the developments in the Balkans;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the effective implementation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the objective of which is to strengthen countries in South-Eastern Europe in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity, in order to achieve stability in the whole region, and of its follow-up activities aimed, *inter alia*, at economic reconstruction, development and cooperation, including economic cooperation in the region and between the region and the rest of Europe;

4. *Invites* all States and the relevant international organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, in particular the international financial institutions, to continue to take into account the special needs and situations of the affected States in providing support and assistance to their efforts for economic recovery, structural adjustment and development;

5. *Encourages* the affected States of the region to continue the process of multilateral regional cooperation in such fields as transport and infrastructure development, including the resumption of navigation on the Danube, as well as to foster conditions favourable to trade and investment in all the countries of the region;

6. *Invites* the relevant international organizations to take appropriate steps, consistent with the principle of efficient and effective procurement and with resolution 54/14 of 29 October 1999 on procurement reform, in order to broaden access for interested local and regional vendors and to facilitate their participation in the efforts for reconstruction, recovery and development of the region;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

80th plenary meeting
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[11] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.II.E.3.

H

ASSISTANCE FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF, REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR EAST TIMOR

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its relevant resolutions on the situation in East Timor,

Recalling also the relevant Security Council resolutions and decisions on the situation in East Timor, in particular resolution 1272 (1999) of 25 October 1999,

Recalling further agreed conclusions 1998/1[12] and 1999/1 of the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling also the agreements of 5 May 1999 between Indonesia and Portugal, and between the United Nations, Indonesia and Portugal, on modalities and security arrangements for the popular consultation, welcoming the successful conduct of the popular consultation of the East Timorese people on 30 August 1999, taking note of its outcome, which began a process of transition under the authority of the United Nations towards independence, and welcoming the decision of the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly on 19 October 1999 concerning East Timor,

Emphasizing the urgent need for humanitarian assistance to overcome the grave humanitarian situation resulting from violence and damage to property in East Timor and the large-scale displacement of East Timorese civilians, including large numbers of women and children,

1. *Welcomes* the contribution of Member States, the United Nations system, international organizations and non-governmental organizations in addressing the humanitarian assistance needs of the people of East Timor;

2. *Welcomes also* the establishment by Security Council resolution 1272 (1999) of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, whose mandate includes the coordination and delivery of humanitarian, rehabilitation and development assistance, as well as the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in East Timor and Transitional Administrator of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of close consultation and collaboration with the East Timorese people and organizations in the planning and delivery of humanitarian, rehabilitation and development assistance to East Timor;

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[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. VII, para. 5.

4. *Requests* all Member States to respond urgently to meet fully the requirements of the United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for the East Timor crises, which was launched on 27 October 1999;

5. *Urges* Member States to respond fully to meet the identified needs of the Transitional Administration, including in such areas as the provision of civil and social services, institutions and capacity;

6. *Welcomes* the Joint Assessment Mission of the World Bank, United Nations agencies, the donor community, the Asian Development Bank and the East Timorese to assess the immediate and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and development needs of East Timor, within the United Nations arrangements for East Timor and in close cooperation with immediate relief and rehabilitation efforts, and requests all Member States to respond to meet the needs identified fully;

7. *Welcomes also*, in this regard, the convening of the Donors Meeting for East Timor in Tokyo on 16 and 17 December 1999;

8. *Calls upon* Member States, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to collaborate to ensure the safe and unhindered access and provision of humanitarian, rehabilitation and development assistance to all those in need in East Timor, including internally displaced persons;

9. *Calls upon* Member States, United Nations agencies and other international organizations to continue to collaborate, in full cooperation with the Indonesian Government, to ensure safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance to the East Timorese in western Timor and other parts of Indonesia, including those who do not wish to return to East Timor, in accordance with national and international law;

10. *Welcomes* the assurances given by the Indonesian authorities regarding the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian organizations, including the security of the personnel of the Office of the High Commissioner, and assurances regarding free access to all East Timorese in western Timor;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the voluntary, safe and unimpeded return of refugees and displaced persons to East Timor, emphasizes the responsibility of States to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee and displaced persons camps and settlements, and, in this regard, welcomes the policy of the Indonesian Government to ensure that the East Timorese have the freedom to exercise their right to return voluntarily, to remain in western Timor or to relocate within other parts of Indonesia or other countries;

12. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the memorandum of technical understanding of 22 November 1999 establishing a joint border monitoring group to ensure safe conditions in the border area and to facilitate the efficient and safe flow of returning East Timorese refugees;

13. *Urges* the United Nations to continue to address the humanitarian, rehabilitation and development needs of East Timor;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

80th plenary meeting
15 December 1999

I

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY HURRICANES JOSE AND LENNY

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/1 B of 5 October 1998 and other relevant resolutions under the agenda item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations",

Deeply distressed at the damage caused by hurricanes Jose and Lenny and the grave effects on the people, infrastructure and productive sectors of the economies of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Grenada, the Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and several other countries and territories of the region,

Deeply concerned at the frequency and unpredictability in the recurrence of these natural disasters, which seriously undermine the capacity of these countries to achieve sustained development,

Also concerned that hurricanes and other natural disasters exacerbate the effect of sea level rise, loss of biodiversity and the destruction of land resources and marine and coastal zones,

Mindful of the vulnerability of the natural environment and infrastructure of these countries to the effects of these disasters and the new challenges which they present to the efforts of the affected countries and territories to preserve their economic viability and insurability,

Conscious of the efforts of the Governments and the peoples of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Grenada, the Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and several other countries and territories of the region to restore infrastructure and rehabilitate productive sectors, particularly agriculture and tourism,

Also conscious of the efforts of the Governments and the peoples of the affected countries and territories of the region to save lives and alleviate the sufferings of the victims of the hurricanes,

Noting the enormous effort that will be required to rebuild the affected areas and to alleviate the grave situation caused by these natural disasters,

Recognizing that the magnitude of the disasters and the medium-term and long-term effects will require, as a complement to the efforts being made by the peoples and the Governments of the affected countries, a demonstration of international solidarity and humanitarian concern to ensure broad multilateral cooperation in order to meet the immediate emergency situation in the affected areas and to initiate the process of reconstruction and rehabilitation,

1. *Notes* the efforts of the Governments of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Grenada, the Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines and several other countries and territories of the region;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all States of the international community, international agencies and non-governmental organizations that are providing emergency relief to the affected countries;

3. *Urges* all States of the international community, as a matter of urgency, to contribute generously to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the affected countries and to provide financing for the national and regional relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts being undertaken by the affected countries;

4. *Urges* the bodies and agencies of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions to assist Governments in their rehabilitation and redevelopment efforts, taking into account their vulnerability to natural disasters;

5. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to assist in the strengthening of national and regional capacity for disaster preparedness, planning, mitigation and reconstruction, including early warning systems;

6. *Calls upon* the relevant agencies and bodies of the United Nations system as well as regional bodies to assist the States and territories of the Caribbean region in convening, when possible, a workshop for building national and regional capacity in disaster preparedness and disaster management;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fifth session, under the agenda item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", on the collaborative effort referred to in the present resolution, and on the progress made in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the affected countries;

8. *Also requests* that the Secretary-General include in his report to the General Assembly information on the linkages between implementation of the present resolution and implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[13] and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action.[14]

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[13] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[14] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S–22/9/Rev.1).

J

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE SUDAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/1 O of 17 December 1998 and its previous resolutions on emergency assistance to the Sudan,

Bearing in mind its resolution 54/192 of 17 December 1999 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel,

Welcoming agreed conclusions 1998/1 of the Economic and Social Council,[12] adopted by the Council at the humanitarian segment of its substantive session of 1998, in which, among other things, the Council reaffirmed that international cooperation to address emergency situations should be provided in accordance with international law and national laws, and that the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory,

Welcoming also agreed conclusions 1999/1 of the Economic and Social Council,[6] in which the Council addressed the theme of "International cooperation and coordinated responses to humanitarian emergencies, in particular in the transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development" in its second humanitarian segment,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[15]

Welcoming the decision of the Government of the Sudan to provide access to the Nuba Mountains, noting in that regard the results of the inter-agency needs assessment mission undertaken by the United Nations, and calling upon all parties to continue to cooperate with the United Nations in meeting the needs identified in that assessment,

Noting the occasional obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, welcoming the agreements reached by the parties to Operation Lifeline Sudan, among them the Rome protocol, aiming at facilitating delivery of relief assistance to affected populations, as well as the progress made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in strengthening the coordination of the Operation,

Urging United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and donor countries to continue channelling their humanitarian assistance to all affected populations in the Sudan through Operation Lifeline Sudan,

Expressing concern over the continued conflict in the Sudan and its negative impact on the humanitarian situation,

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[15] A/54/295.

Taking note of the ongoing peace efforts taking place under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the initiative of Egypt and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for achieving a negotiated and lasting peace in the Sudan,

Noting with appreciation the contributions for the inter-agency appeal for Operation Lifeline Sudan and the progress made in the Operation, and noting also that considerable relief needs still remain to be addressed, including assistance to combat diseases such as malaria and assistance for logistic needs, emergency recovery, rehabilitation and development,

Expressing concern over the damaging consequences of floods that have occurred in various parts of the Sudan lately,

Calling for an early resolution to the conflict, and expressing concern that its continuation further increases the suffering of the civilian population and undermines the effectiveness of international, regional and national humanitarian assistance,

Reaffirming the need for all parties to continue to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations in implementing emergency assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicine, shelter and health care, and to ensure safe and unhindered access to all affected populations,

Recognizing the need in emergency situations to ensure the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development so as to reduce dependence on external food aid and other relief services,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the donor community, United Nations agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations for the contributions so far made to the humanitarian needs of the Sudan, and calls upon them to continue their assistance, in particular by responding to the consolidated appeal and providing support for programmes in the Nuba Mountains;

2. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation by the Government of the Sudan with the United Nations, including the agreements and arrangements achieved to facilitate relief operations with a view to improving United Nations assistance to the affected areas, encourages the continuation of that cooperation, and calls upon all parties to the conflict to respect the current humanitarian ceasefire, in order to ensure the delivery of relief assistance;

3. *Stresses* the need for Operation Lifeline Sudan to be operated and managed with a view to ensuring its efficiency, transparency and effectiveness, with the full involvement and cooperation of the Government of the Sudan, taking cognizance of the relevant Operation Lifeline Sudan agreements reached by the parties, as well as consultations in the preparation of the consolidated annual inter-agency appeal for the Operation;

4. *Recognizes* the need for Operation Lifeline Sudan to be conducted in strict adherence to the principles of neutrality and impartiality and within the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan, and within the framework of international cooperation, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to contribute generously to the emergency needs, recovery and development of the Sudan;

6. *Urges* the international community to give assistance for the rehabilitation of transportation means and infrastructure vital for the provision of relief supplies in the Sudan and their cost-effectiveness, and in this context stresses the importance of continued cooperation by all the parties involved so as to facilitate and improve the delivery of relief supplies;

7. *Calls upon* the donor community and the organizations of the United Nations system to provide financial, technical and medical assistance, guided by the actions called for by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions, to combat such diseases as malaria and other epidemics in the Sudan;

8. *Urges* the international community to continue to support national programmes of rehabilitation, voluntary resettlement and reintegration of returnees and internally displaced persons, as well as assistance to refugees;

9. *Stresses* the imperative of ensuring the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, as well as safe and unhindered access for providing relief assistance to all affected populations, and the importance of strict observance of the principles and guidelines of Operation Lifeline Sudan, and of international humanitarian law reaffirming the necessity for humanitarian personnel to respect the national laws of the Sudan;

10. *Welcomes* the decision of the Government of the Sudan to extend for a further period of three months the ceasefire for all the areas of military operation in the country and the announcement by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Army of the continuation of the humanitarian ceasefire within the same period for Bahr al Ghazal and parts of the Upper Nile, strongly appeals for a comprehensive ceasefire and appeals to the parties and the revitalized mediation structure to work to this end as part of a negotiated solution to the conflict;

11. *Urges* all parties involved to continue to offer all feasible assistance, including facilitating the movement of relief supplies and personnel, so as to guarantee the success of Operation Lifeline Sudan in all affected parts of the country, with especial emphasis on national capacity-building in the humanitarian field for governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as on meeting emergency relief needs;

12. *Calls upon* all parties to respect international humanitarian law on the protection of civilians during times of war and, in this connection, condemns attacks against civilians and humanitarian personnel, including the case of four Sudanese nationals who were abducted on 18 February 1999 while accompanying a humanitarian mission of an International Committee of the Red Cross team and subsequently killed while in the custody of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Army, and urges the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Army to return the bodies to their families;

13. *Condemns* the detention of humanitarian personnel, and calls for appropriate investigations into all allegations of such incidents, including into the whereabouts of the eleven personnel of the sub-Saharan international development organizations last seen in rebel-held areas;

14. *Welcomes* the signing by the Government of the Sudan of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[5] urges all parties to the conflict to desist from using them, calls upon the international community to refrain from supplying mines to the region, and urges the international community and United Nations agencies to provide appropriate assistance related to mine action in the Sudan;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize and coordinate resources and support for Operation Lifeline Sudan and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the emergency situation in the affected areas and the recovery, rehabilitation and development of the Sudan.

84th plenary meeting
17 December 1999

K

ASSISTANCE TO VENEZUELA FOLLOWING THE DEVASTATING FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the loss of human lives and the unprecedented destruction of property and infrastructure caused in recent days by the worst floods and landslides Venezuela has ever suffered,

Recognizing that natural disasters constitute a major problem for development whose solution requires considerable resources and calls for efforts at the national level to be supplemented by international financial and technical assistance,

Recognizing also the large-scale relief and emergency assistance efforts being made by the Government and the people of Venezuela in order to alleviate the suffering of the disaster victims,

Aware that to mitigate and prevent the consequences of this disaster, international emergency assistance is required,

Taking note of the appeal by the Secretary-General to the international community for aid and assistance to Venezuela in dealing with the effects of the floods and landslides,

Taking note also of the appeal to the international community by the Government of Venezuela to provide emergency humanitarian aid, and of the need for assistance in rehabilitation and reconstruction of the areas affected by the disastrous floods and landslides,

1. *Expresses its solidarity*, at this difficult time, with the Government and the people of Venezuela in their efforts to cope with the serious humanitarian and material consequences of the disaster;

2. *Appeals* to all Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as to international financing institutions and non-governmental organizations, to respond urgently and provide generous assistance to Venezuela in its relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and programmes following the unprecedented calamity it has suffered;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations and private individuals and groups that are with such great generosity providing assistance to the Government of Venezuela in the initial immediate relief work;

4. *Expresses its deep gratitude* to the Secretary-General for the urgent steps he has taken to mobilize emergency humanitarian assistance;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all necessary arrangements to continue mobilizing and coordinating humanitarian assistance from the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with a view to supporting the efforts of the Government of Venezuela.

87th plenary meeting
22 December 1999